

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**February 10, 2009**

On Sunday, February 8, 2009, the members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in South Los Angeles arrived for their worship service to discover that their sanctuary and three other rooms, including a food bank and classrooms, had been vandalized and spray-painted with graffiti. In order for the intruders to gain entry into the main sanctuary, a stained glass window was destroyed.

The intruders left no hate messages for the congregation, but damaged classrooms, stole a set of drums from the sanctuary, and sprayed the food bank with a fire extinguisher. To date, no arrests have been made in this crime.

Although the elements of this vandalism does not necessarily fit into the category to establish it as a hate crime, which usually includes some type of bias motivation against the victim, due to the despicable nature of this vandalism against a house of worship, this crime warrants a review by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission.

**- M O R E -**

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, residents should be encouraged to come forth with any information which may assist the Los Angeles Police Department in apprehending the perpetrators of this act of egregious vandalism.

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Authorize the offer of a reward in the amount of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this crime against St. Mark's United Methodist Church; and

Direct the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission to review the elements of this crime and report back to the Board with their assessment and recommendations, if any, within 2 weeks.

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S: / smohamedy / 2009 / Motions / Randi Tahara / "Reward Methodist" 02/10/2009

**Contact:      LAPD Southwest Station Detectives  
                     (213) 485-2582**